



Nightmare



horror

blood

nightmare

110 0 5

Chapter 1 by Seth Andrus

I've had dreams, and I've also had nightmares. But only one comes to mind when I think of the word "terrifying". No dream or nightmare I've ever had or heard about has been worse. This story made a grown man tremble at the slightest of thought from what I'm about to tell you. And he has never looked at me the same since...

I became fast asleep on the top bunk in my room. I closed my eyes and drifted into sleep. When my eyes reopened I was in a dream. (Even if I didn't know it.) I was standing on the edge of a cliff hundreds of feet up. The cold air and winds felt so real when they brushed against me back, like they were trying to push me off. The cliff was tall enough that the clouds couldn't even reach me. A rancorous woman is a few feet behind me shouting a name that isn't mine. She's yelling mean things to me, I look down to the clouds and let myself fall without hesitation. I close my eyes again and I let freezing water consume me.

Once again I open my eyes, I'm sitting in a white, luminescent room. There are no lights but it's almost too bright for my eyes. Leaning back and looking around I notice I'm sitting in some sort of broken electric chair. The chair is a blackish brown, stained with dry blood. Pieces of wood

are hanging off everywhere. I turn again and a piece hits my arm like a splinter. Blood pours out and onto the floor. I can't feel it but I began to panic. I try to move my arm but it's caught on the wood. I look at it, but its bright colors, not just one color like I thought. It's red, black, and white. Blood and being bound. The other things is that I knew where I was. There are no windows or doors... But, there is a

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small hole in the wall. I stand up, trying not to lose balance. The splinter is torn out of my arm, more blood pouts out, making a trail from where I stoop to the edge of the room. I try to look through the small hole in the wall, but I can't see through it. I raise a hand to touch the wall and somehow my arms are free, I am no longer bounded by bright blue straps.

I reach out to the wall, and when my hand pressed the cold surface it begins to cave in. The whole spreading and cracks cover the wall entirely. What looks like blood begins filling the room. I take a step back, this wasn't supposed to happen... In the back of my head I hear some sort of speaker or radio being shut off. The sound of static make me lose focus and before I know it the room is almost filled. I try to swim to the top, but I know it won't work. I take a deep breath and dive down hoping one whole might be big enough to swim through. I search the wall multiple times but it was all for naught. No luck came in the bloody darkness of the room. I could only hope the room isn't full and that maybe I can get some air one last time. I head upwards, but the room doesn't seem to have an end. I get worried I'm just going in circles but then my head rises above everything.

I wipe my eyes as best as I can and look at where I am. It's someplace new. But everything is still rising. I swim forward down the dark hall until my feet hit cement. "Stairs?" I hear myself say. I walk up the cement, which despite the warm blood still rising... It's cold. There is a small light in the distance. I want to run, but when I take the first step onto the landing I fall, I'm not strong enough. I try again, and again. I can barely lift myself up. Maybe I had used all the energy in the body, whatever the case, my consciousness was wide awake and tell me to move. I propped myself up on the stone wall, and slowly begin to walk down to the light. I felt like forever, but I finally got there. It was a small candle on the one side of the hall, by the candle was a sign carved into the stones. It's four horizontal lines then a vertical line beside it, the image is reflected on the other side with a large "X" in the middle. It's a greeting sign I invented. It scared me to know someone, or something else knew Seki no Hajimari, and decided to greet me with it. I went as fast as I could to the next light, still only at a walking pace... I heard footsteps behind me. Witch was weird, in a place slowly filling up footsteps didn't seem possible. Again I sped up, somehow I tripped and fell to the ground. I felt a gash on my leg, but I had to move. I felt every nerve try to

shock me and tell me to stop, but I got up and kept going.

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After so many twists and turns I finally found the end. The footsteps that had been following me sped up. I felt like how they taught us in school. While trying to stop thinking about what it was that could be following me. The noise of

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steps rang in my head, I couldn't block it out. I scratched me ears, trying to tear them off. The noise would drive me insane. But then, it stopped. My eyes were shut tight. Whatever it was, was now behind me. I could feel a warm breath on the back of my neck as a chill ran up my spine. I wanted to open my eyes, but my body wouldn't let me. The dead end opened into a hole, I heard the wall collapse, and laughter from all directions was the only sound left that didn't stop. Children screaming and crying out. I placed my hands over my eyes and tried to pry them open, nothing worked. I began running again without my consent. My legs just began moving. As my arms reached out I felt my room in the real world, in the pitch black my arms were trying to wake me up. Yet I kept feeling the running motion. Feeling from my mind that I was trapped in my nightmare. I tried again to open my eyes, there was so much noise around me I felt like I was going crazy. I clawed at my eyes and finally pried them open in a panic. The skin around my eyes felt like it was burning, but I woke up. I was sitting upright in my bed, I turned to the clock, and it was about 3 AM. It was too early to wake anyone up, so I laid back and tried to forget. But I couldn't, and for the next 7 years... As well as the rest of my life... I will never forget...

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